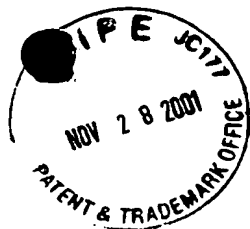


192403US55X



#9/A
Amel
Hil
12/5/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: :
David SUDA, et al. : EXAMINER: HARMON, C.
SERIAL NO.: 09/584,182 :
FILED: May 31, 2000 : GROUP ART UNIT: 3721
FOR: APPARATUS AND METHOD :
FOR BAGGING AN ITEM :

RECEIVED
DEC 03 2001
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated August 28, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 2, 9-19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 3, and 4 are amended as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method for inserting an item into a receptacle using an apparatus having a hollow tube section having a first opening and a second opening and a hollow flared section having a narrow opening and a wide opening, the narrow opening being connected to the first opening, said method comprising the steps of:
- positioning a receptacle over an exterior surface of the tube section adjacent the second opening;
 - inserting the item within the flared section via the wide opening; and

9-19
A1